

15                   depositing a curable adhesive on at least one of said inboard  
16                   and outboard surfaces such that said curable adhesive is between said  
17                   overlay and said wheel upon assembling said overlay with said wheel; and  
18                   temporarily securing said overlay to said outboard surface of  
19                   said wheel with said securing and positioning means so as to positively  
20                   position said overlay centrally relative to said [outboard surface] rim  
21                   portion of said wheel and so as to form said at least one gap therebetween,  
22                   said curable adhesive filling at least a portion of said at least one gap,  
23                   said securing and positioning means securing and positioning said overlay  
24                   for a duration sufficient for said curable adhesive to permanently cure and  
25                   thereby permanently secure said overlay to said wheel.

Claim 2, line 3, after "said" insert ---- at least one ----.

Claim 3, line 3, after "said" insert ---- at least one ----.

Claim 8, line 1, after "securing" insert ---- and positioning  
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Claim 8, line 2, after "securing" insert ---- and positioning  
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1                   32. (Amended) A wheel and overlay assembly comprising:  
2                   a disk portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disk  
3                   portion, said disk and rim portions defining an outboard surface of said  
4                   wheel;

5                   an overlay [secured to] juxtaposed said outboard surface of  
6                   said wheel, said overlay having an inboard surface complementary to and  
7                   facing said outboard surface of said wheel;

8                   means [between] interposed said inboard surface of said  
9                   overlay and engaging attached to said outboard surface of said wheel for temporarily securing  
10                  [said overlay to said outboard surface of said wheel] and for positively  
11                  positioning said overlay on said outboard surface of said wheel, said  
12                  securing and positioning means being attached to said inboard surface prior  
13                  to securing and positioning said overlay on said wheel and causing said

A2  
14 overlay to be [spaced apart] centrally located with respect to said rim  
15 portion of said wheel and spaced from said outboard surface of said wheel so  
16 as to define [a] at least one gap therebetween when said overlay is mounted  
17 on said wheel; and

18 [an] a permanent adhesive disposed in said at least one gap  
19 [and] for permanently securing said overlay to said wheel.

Claim 33, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly  
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A3  
1 34. (Amended) The wheel and overlay assembly of Claim 32 wherein  
2 said securing and positioning [means] means comprises a hot melt adhesive.

Claim 35, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly  
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Claim 36, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly  
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Claim 37, line 1, after "wheel" insert ---- and overlay assembly  
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1 38. (Amended) An automobile wheel and overlay assembly  
2 comprising:

3 a disk portion and a rim portion circumscribing said disk  
4 portion, said disk and rim portions defining an outboard surface of said  
5 wheel;

6 a wheel bead seat formed on said rim portion, said wheel bead  
7 seat forming a peripheral surface feature on said outboard surface of said  
8 wheel;

9 an overlay [secured to] juxtaposed said outboard surface of  
10 said wheel, said overlay having an inboard surface complementary to and  
11 facing said outboard surface of said wheel;

12 a plurality of projections attached to and extending from  
13 said inboard surface of said overlay, each of said plurality of projections  
14 resiliently engaging said peripheral surface feature so as to secure said

33

15 overlay to said wheel and positively position said overlay on said outboard  
16 surface of said wheel, said plurality of projections causing said [inboard  
17 surface of said] overlay to be [spaced apart] centrally located with respect  
18 to said rim portion of said wheel and spaced from said outboard surface of  
19 said wheel so as to define [a] at least one gap therebetween; and  
20 an adhesive disposed in said at least one gap for permanently  
21 securing said overlay to said wheel.

1 39. (Amended) An overlay for a wheel and overlay assembly having  
2 a rim portion  
an outer surface, and an axis, said overlay comprising:

3 an ornamental panel member having a substantially uniform  
4 thickness; a first surface; and an oppositely disposed second surface;  
5 a decorative layer adhered to said first surface of said  
6 ornamental panel member, [and]  
7 attached to  
8 means interposed said second surface of said ornamental panel  
9 member and said outer surface of said wheel for temporarily securing and  
10 positioning said ornamental panel member on said wheel, said securing and  
11 positioning means being attached to said second surface of said ornamental  
12 panel member and causing said ornamental panel member to be centrally  
13 mounted with respect to said rim portion of said wheel and spaced from said  
14 outboard surface of said wheel so as to define at least one gap  
15 therebetween; and

16 [an] adhesive means selectively positioned between said  
17 second surface of said ornamental panel member and said outer surface of  
18 said wheel, said adhesive means permanently attaching said overlay directly  
19 to said outer surface of said wheel;

20 whereby said decorative layer of said first surface  
substantially covers said outer surface of said wheel.

1 40. (Amended) In a composite vehicle wheel having a wheel with a  
2 web portion and a rim portion circumscribing said web portion, said web  
3 portion defining an outboard surface of said composite vehicle wheel, an

34

4 ornamental panel member attached to said outboard surface of said web  
5 portion, said ornamental panel member having a first surface and an  
6 oppositely disposed second surface:

7 [an] adhesive means selectively positioned between said  
8 ornamental panel member and said outboard surface of said wheel, said  
9 adhesive means temporarily and permanently attaching said overlay directly  
10 to said outboard surface of said wheel;

11 a decorative layer adhered to said first surface of said  
12 ornamental panel member; [and]

13 said ornamental panel member being a thin panel of  
14 substantially uniform thickness; and

15 means for temporarily and permanently securing and  
16 positioning said ornamental panel member on said wheel, said securing and  
17 positioning means interposed said ornamental panel member and said outboard  
18 surface and causing said ornamental panel member to be centrally mounted  
19 with respect to said rim portion of said wheel and spaced from said outboard  
20 surface of said wheel so as to define at least one gap therebetween;

21 whereby when said ornamental panel member is directly  
22 attached to said outboard surface of said wheel by said adhesive means said  
23 decorative layer of said first surface substantially covers said outboard  
24 surface of said wheel.

Remarks

The Office Action of September 26, 1995, Paper No. 3, was carefully reviewed and to highlight the distinctions between Applicant's invention and the prior art of record, the claims were amended as set forth herein. Claims 1 through 3 and 32 through 40 were amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention and to place all the claims remaining in the application in condition for allowance. Claims 1 through 40 remain in the application.

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 32 through 38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being